

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An inflatable external airbag system for a vehicle having a hood including a front and rear thereof, and a windshield adjacent the rear of the hood, the inflatable external airbag system comprising:

an airbag for being deployed along the vehicle windshield; and

a rear portion of the hood closer to the rear of the hood than the front thereof with the airbag deploying from the hood rear portion toward the generally adjacent vehicle windshield to minimize wind and air pressure influences in securely deploying the airbag along the windshield.

[The inflatable external airbag system of claim 8] wherein the airbag is positioned under the hood rear portion, and the hood rear portion comprises a regulating member that deflects the airbag toward the windshield when the airbag deploys.

10. (Currently Amended) An inflatable external airbag system for a vehicle having a hood including a front and rear thereof, and a windshield adjacent the rear of the hood, the inflatable external airbag system comprising:

an airbag for being deployed along the vehicle windshield; and

a rear portion of the hood closer to the rear of the hood than the front thereof with the airbag deploying from the hood rear portion toward the generally adjacent vehicle windshield to minimize wind and air pressure influences in securely deploying the airbag along the windshield.

[The inflatable external airbag system of claim 8] wherein the hood further includes a cowl at the rear thereof, and the cowl comprises a regulating member that pivots upwardly to deflect the airbag toward the windshield when the airbag deploys.